GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3035
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2001
SCS/STS BELOW POVERTY LINE
DUKHA BHAGAT

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the percentage of people living below poverty line has reduced from 35 to 26 percent;

(b) Whether the 26 percent of people, who are below the poverty line belongs only to SCs and STs communities;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof;

(d) if not the percentage of SCs and STs still living below the poverty line; and

(e) the measures being taken to bring them at par with the people of other communities?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA)

a) As per Planning Commission,the percentage of people living below the poverty line in the country has gone down from 35.97% in 1993-94 to 26.1% in 1999- 2000.

b) No, Sir. 26.1% of the persons estimated to be living below poverty line is for the entire population of the country, including SCs/STs.

c) Does not arise.

d) The latest estimate of percentages of SC and ST population living below thepoverty line are available for the year 1993-94. According to this, 48.11% of SC population and 51.94% of ST population in rural areas and 49.48% of SC population and 41.14 % of ST population in urban areas were living below the poverty line in 1993-94.

e) Welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been a matter ofpriority for the Government. The Government has been taking several steps for improving the status of SCs/STs, which include the following:-

(i) In order to give a greater thrust to development of Scheduled Castes andScheduled Tribes, the State Governments and Central Ministries have been asked to implement special plans, namely, Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) for the STs andSpecial Component Plan (SCP) for SCs.Under this strategy, certain percentage of the plan fund of the States/Central Ministries in proportion to the population of STs and SCs are being earmarked for spending exclusively on welfare of STs and SCs.

(ii) Special Central Assistance is being provided as an additive to the TSP and SCP of the States.

(iii) Grant under Article 275 of the Constitution is being provided for promoting welfare of Scheduled Tribes.

(iv) The National SC Finance Development Corporation and National Tribal Finance and Development Corporation are providing loan at concessional rate of interest to the SCs and STs respectively.

(v) Under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, 49% share capital is being released to Statelevel Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Development Corporations (SCDCs)against 51% share capital released by the respective State governments. The SCDCs are providing loan at concessional rate of interest and margin money to SC/ST families for undertaking various economic activities.